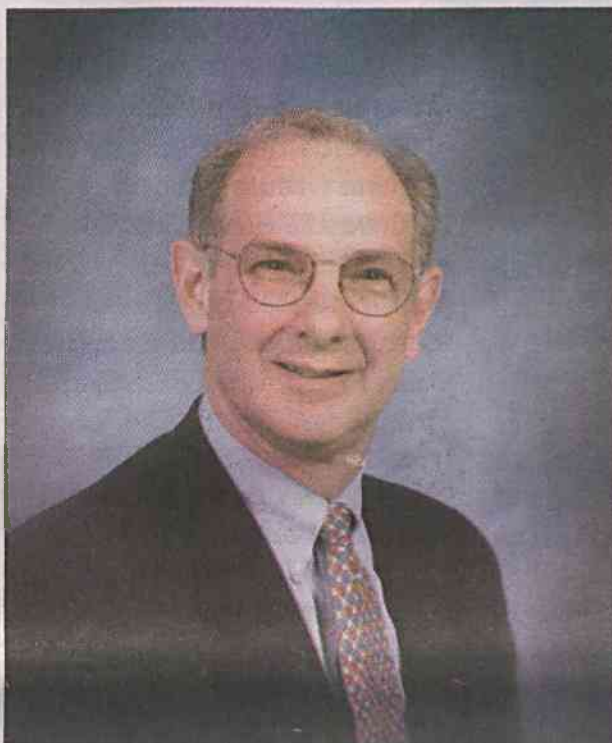


# COUGAR CRY

## Interview with Dr. Gordon Burns



1. Where are you originally from?

Dr. Burns: "I am originally from Easton, Pennsylvania. Easton is near Philadelphia."

2. Could you describe your previous work experience and education?

Dr. Burns: "I began my career in education as a teacher in Kentucky and continued teaching in middle and high schools in Missouri while attending the University of Missouri on a part-time basis.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity early in my career and during my graduate study years to plan, construct and direct for 5 years the Boonslick area Vocational-Technical School in Boonville, Missouri. I continued my graduate studies during these years and completed my Ph.D. degree in 1976. My wife and I then moved to North Carolina where I have served three community colleges – ten years at Wilson Technical Community College, first as dean of continuing

education and then as vice president for instruction; seven years as executive vice president of Lenoir Community College and 10 years as president of Wilkes Community College."

3. What led you to WCC?

Dr. Burns: "My career goal has been to serve in progressively more senior administrative positions leading ultimately to the presidency. To accomplish that goal required moving. I was attracted to Wilkes Community College because of its reputation and potential to be a model rural community college in the North Carolina Community College System. The beauty and quality of the physical campus, support of the college by the communities and the scope of services offered by Wilkes Community College made it appealing."

4. If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be and why?

Dr. Burns: "I would be a little more laid back and casual about some things."

5. How long have you been at WCC and what are some major accomplishments that have happened during your presidency?

Dr. Burns: "I have served as president of Wilkes Community for ten years. Perhaps my greatest contributions have been bringing the people of the college and community together realizing the college's service potential. In a tangible sense, construction of Alumni Hall, the horticulture complex, and the new science and technology center have to be among the leading accomplishments. Equal in importance to these are the continuing improvement and expansion of programs and services of the college."

6. What are some changes that have oc-

Cont. On Pg. 2

## Table Of Contents

Interview with Dr. Burns	pg 1
Merlefest Awards	pg 1
Book Review	pg 3
New PTK Members	pg 3
Art Show	pg 4
New Building	pg 4
Sports	pg 5
New SGA Officers	pg 6
Ashe Open House	pg 6
Grad Marshals	pg 7
A Year in Review	pg 8
Awards Reception	pg 10
Meet the Staff	pg 11
Class of 2006	pg 14

## MerleFest takes home four awards at NCAF&E

WILKESBORO, NC: MerleFest, the annual festival in celebration of the music of the late Merle Watson and his father Doc Watson, took home four awards at the North Carolina Association of Festivals and Events (NCAF&E) Showfest in Charlotte on February 13. NCAF&E presented MerleFest with its premier accolade, the Kay Saintsing Award for Event of the Year. MerleFest 2005 also won in the annual budget of more than \$50,000 category for Best Press Kit, Best Event Photo (by WCC's own Chad Treadway), and Best Miscellaneous Printed Material (for the MerleFest program). Wilkes Community College presented MerleFest 2006 on April 27-30, 2006 on its campus in Wilkesboro, NC.

Cont. On Pg. 2